UNITED NATIONS

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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.
GEN AL

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ust 1997

Original : ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Forty-fourth session
Geneva, 13 October 1997
Item 1(b) of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Provisional agenda and annotations for the forty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in section I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in section II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.

GE.97-51372

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Election of officers
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
   (d) Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Board

2. Segment for high-level participation: Globalization, competition, competitiveness and development

3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Income distribution and growth in a global context

4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:

   (a) Policy reforms in agriculture and their implications for LDCs' development

   (b) Contribution by the Board to the consideration of the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

5. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: Performance, prospects and policy issues

6. Technical cooperation activities:

   (a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
   (b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

7. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

   (a) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries
   (b) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirtieth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

8. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Review of the calendar of meetings
   (b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

9. Other business

10. Adoption of the report of the Board.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Procedural matters

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

(a) Election of officers
(rules 18 and 19)

In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board shall consist of 12 members (the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur), i.e. 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 from List B, 2 from List C and 2 from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX), as amended.

In accordance with the cycle of rotation, the President of the Board for the forty-fourth session shall be a representative of one of the States in List D and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States in List A (Asia). The 10 Vice-Presidents shall therefore be - 3 from List A (Africa/Asia); 4 from List B; 2 from List C; and 1 from List D.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

The provisional agenda for the current session is reproduced in section I above.

Organization of work

In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations in the past, meetings of the session of the Board have been designed so that no two meetings take place at a given time. They have also been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly that of small delegations, and above all to ensure most efficient use of conference resources.

Establishment of Sessional Committees

In accordance with rule 62 of its Rules of Procedure, the Board may wish to set up two sessional committees and refer to them items on the agenda. The proposed allocation of items between the Plenary and Sessional Committees, in accordance with rule 13, is indicated in annex I of this document.

Schedule of meetings

The table in annex II below shows the overall timetable at a glance for the two-week period (in part I) and the details on a weekly basis (in Part II). It is understood that this schedule should be flexible to take into account developments during the session.

(c) Adoption of the report on credentials
(Rule 17.2)

"The Bureau of the Board shall examine the credentials and submit their report to the Board".

In-session documentation

(d) Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Board

The draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Board will be submitted by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer the consideration of this to the Consultations of the Bureau and Coordinators.

In-session documentation

Item 2 Segment for high-level participation: Globalization, competition, competitiveness and development

The high-level segment will consider, through a comparative examination of concrete experiences, issues pertaining to the relationship between competition and competitiveness from a development perspective in a globalizing and liberalizing world economy. It will be chaired by the Honourable Jan Pronk, Minister of International Cooperation for Development of the Netherlands.

The discussion in the segment will be organized in such a manner that it complements the other three main agenda items, namely: interdependence, LDCs and Africa. Attention will also be focused on the emerging issues related to competitiveness in the wake of advances in information technologies. A detailed substantive programme on the event will be issued at a later date.

In-session documentation

Item 3 Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Income distribution and growth in a global context

The topic for discussion at the forty-fourth session is "Income distribution and growth in a global context". The discussion will highlight the growing inequalities within and across countries in the world economy and the threat that these pose to closer economic integration. The scope for policies at the domestic level to achieve a faster and broadly shared pattern of growth will be discussed, and asymmetries and imbalances which might obstruct this outcome at the international level will be addressed. The topic is covered in Part II of the Trade and Development Report, 1997.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/17 and Overview	Trade and Development Report, 1997

Item 4 Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:

(a) Policy reforms in agriculture and their implications for LDCs' development

(b) Contribution by the Board to the consideration of the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

"A Partnership for Growth and Development" (TD/377) provides in paragraph 107(c) that the Board will review at its annual sessions progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

For the consideration of agenda item 4(a), the Board will have before it the Least Developed Countries 1997 Report. Part II of the Report, comprising five chapters. will focus on the agricultural sector of LDCs. The Report reviews the impact of agricultural policy reforms in LDCs, the major constraints on agricultural development and the likely effects of trade policy reforms and changes in the international trading system on agriculture in LDCs. The findings of the Report indicate that, while the liberalisation of prices and marketing systems in LDCs, is necessary to reverse the decline of their agriculture, it is unlikely to be sufficient without complementary reforms in other areas affecting supply capacities in agriculture.

As regards item 4(b), the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/103, recalled that "at the end of the decade, a global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action will be carried out, in accordance with paragraph 140 of the Programme of Action and paragraph 7(c) of General Assembly resolution 45/206 regarding the consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-second session of the holding of a third United Nations conference on the least developed countries".

UNCTAD IX, in paragraph 87(iii) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development", decided that the Board should focus, inter alia, on preparing, if so agreed at the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, for a global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action. In the past, the Board made recommendations to the General Assembly on the preparatory process for the first and second UN Conferences on LDCs and their mid-term global reviews.

Documentation

TD/B/44/6 - UNCTAD/LDC/(1997) and Overview — The Least Developed Countries 1997 Report

Item 5 UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: performance, prospects and policy issues

For its consideration of this item, the Board will have before it a document in which the performance, prospects and policy issues for Africa will be discussed. It will examine the factors underlying the recent growth performance in a number of African countries and assess their sustainability. A central issue will be the analysis of the policy reforms undertaken in various countries in the continent. The document will also assess medium-term prospects for export-led growth, taking into account recent trends in investment, the external debt burden and the possible impact of the new debt initiative on heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs).

The Board's consideration of this item, as well as a focused informal debate with the participation of experts, could lead to the identification of a number of policy options in connection with growth and development in Africa.

Documentation

TD/B/44/12	UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: performance, prospects and policy issues

Item 6 Technical cooperation activities:

(a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

In accordance with paragraph 107(b) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development", the Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 1996, as well as considering developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation, including cooperation with other organizations and trends in the mobilization of resources. The Board will be assisted in this matter by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget which, at its thirtieth session, to be held from 6 to 8 October 1997, will conduct a programme-by-programme review of technical activities undertaken in 1996.

At its fifteenth executive session, on 26 June 1997, the Board adopted a strategy for UNCTAD's technical cooperation, which will be implemented through annually updated rolling three-year plans. (The Board took note of the first rolling plan, for 1997-1999, at its fourteenth executive session on 24 March 1997).

The secretariat's report to the Board will include information on the above issues as well as on proposals for cost-recovery and financial sustainability in certain UNCTAD technical cooperation programmes.

Documentation

TD/B/44/11	Overview of technical cooperation activities
TD/B/44/11/Add.1	Annex I - Review of activities undertaken in 1996
TD/B/44/11/Add.2	Annex II - Statistical tables

(b) Consideration of other relevant reports:
Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

Conference resolution 146(VI) requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to report periodically to the Trade and Development Board on the progress achieved in the implementation of that resolution on assistance to Palestinian People. The Conference at its eighth session and the General Assembly in its decision 47/445 called for UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people to be sustained in its current form, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Pursuant to this decision and to the Trade and Development Board's approval of the revised 1996-1997 work programme at its fourteenth executive session, the secretariat has prepared its report to the Board on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people.

The report briefly examines developments in the Palestinian economy since 1995, including the policy environment, aggregate performance and developments in the trade sector. This is followed by an account of the recent orientation in the work of the secretariat in response to the urgent requests of the Palestinian Authority for technical assistance in connection with Palestinian trade, finance and related services.

In taking note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat, the Board may wish to focus attention on the secretariat's programme of technical cooperation activities and the prerequisites for rapid implementation of priority projects, as outlined in part II. In accordance with subparagraph (c) of General Assembly decision 47/445, the Board may also wish to decide that a summary of the discussions under this item should be annexed to the report of the Board to the General Assembly.

Documentation

TD/B/44/10	Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

Item 7 Other matters in the field of trade and development:

(a) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries

Paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 50/97 invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, to take appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the activities called for in the resolution. In this regard, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD requested information on the activities undertaken to promote effective transit-transport systems from the land-locked, transit and other developing counties, as well as from donor countries, international institutions and relevant intergovernmental and subregional organizations. The issues addressed in the replies and the results of UNCTAD's ongoing work in this area are contained in a "Progress report by the UNCTAD secretariat" in document TD/B/44/9. This report will subsequently be submitted to the fifty-second session of the General Assembly under cover of a note by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Furthermore, General Assembly resolution 50/97, in paragraph 11, requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of governmental experts from land-locked and transit developing countries with representatives of donor countries, financial and development institutions in 1997. The Meeting was held under the auspices of UNCTAD from 18 to 20 June 1997 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The report of the Meeting is before the Board in TD/B/44/7- TD/B/LDC/AC.11. The Meeting adopted conclusions and recommendations contained in annex I of its report.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Meeting, endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in annex I of the Report and thereafter submit these conclusions and recommendations, together with the "Progress report by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/44/9)" referred to above, to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, as well as the comments made therein.

Documentation

TD/B/44/9	Progress report by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/44/7 - TD/B/LDC/AC.1/11	Report of the Meeting of Governmental Experts from Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions New York, from 18 to 20 June 1997

(b) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirtieth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

The thirtieth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in Vienna from 12 to 30 May 1997. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205(XXI), the report of the session will be before the Board.

General Assembly resolution 2205(XXI) also provides that any comments or recommendations which the Board may wish to make on the report shall be transmitted to the General Assembly. Likewise, any suggestions for topics to be included in the work of UNCITRAL should also be transmitted to the General Assembly.

Documentation

TD/B/44/13	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
A/52/17	Report of UNCITRAL, thirtieth session

Item 8 Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Review of the calendar of meetings

The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 1997 and an indicative calendar for 1998, as approved by the Bureau and Coordinators on calendar matters, together with a note on any further adjustments recommended, if necessary.

Documentation

TD/B/44/CRP.1	Review of the calendar of meetings

(b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

In-session documentation, if required

Item 9 Other business

Item 10 Adoption of the report of the Board.

In accordance with Board decision 259(XXV), two versions of the report are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions emanating from the session and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the proceedings, which constitutes the official record of the Board's session.

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Control and limitation of documentation

The note by the UNCTAD secretariat in TD/B/INF.191 draws attention to a note by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the control and limitation of documentation (A/AC.172/INF.15, of 16 August 1993). Copies are available at the Documents Distribution Counter at Door 40.

Annex I

ALLOCATION OF ITEMS

PLENARY

1(a) Election of officers
1(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the session
1(c) Adoption of the report on credentials
1(d) Provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Board

2 Segment for high-level participation: Globalization, competition, competitiveness and development

3 Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Income distribution and growth in a global context

6(a) Review of Technical Cooperation activities in UNCTAD
6(b) Consideration of other relevant reports:
Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

7(a) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries
7(b) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirtieth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

8(a) Review of the calendar of meetings
8(b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

9. Other business

10. Adoption of the report of the Board

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE I

4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:
(a) Policy reforms in agriculture and their implications for LDCs development
(b) Contribution by the Board to the consideration of the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II

5. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: Performance, prospects and policy issues

Annex II (Part I)

Schedule of Meetings
from 13 to 24 October 1997

1st week	Monday 13/10	Tuesday 14/10	Wednesday 15/10	Thursday 16/10	Friday 17/10
a.m.	Regional Coordination	INTERDEPENDENCE *Opening*	INTERDEPENDENCE *Panel/Informals*	LDCs *Opening/Panel*	- Review of Tech. Cooperation - Asst. Palestinian
p.m.	PLENARY *(Opening of the Board)*	INTERDEPENDENCE *Panel/Informals*	INTERDEPENDENCE IN CONTEXT OF HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT	LDCs *Informals*	LDCs *Informals*

2nd week	Monday 20/10	Tuesday 21/10	Wednesday 23/10	Thursday 24/10	Friday 25/10
a.m.	AFRICA *Opening/Panel*	AFRICA IN CONTEXT OF HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT	LDCs IN CONTEXT OF HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT	HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT	Press Conference
p.m.	AFRICA *Informals*	- Land-locked - UNCITRAL Bureau	PLENARY *(Adoption of the Report)*	HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT	

Annex II (Part II)

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
FIRST WEEK
(13 - 17 October 1997)

Monday 13/10	Tuesday 14/10	Wednesday 15/10	Thursday 16/10	Friday 17/10
10 a.m.	10 a.m. PLENARY SALLE XX	10 a.m. SALLE XXVI	10 a.m. SESSIONAL COMMITTEE I SALLE XXVI	10 a.m. PLENARY SALLE XX
3 p.m. PLENARY SALLE XX	3 p.m. SALLE XXVI	3 p.m. SALLE XXVI Item 3 Interdependence in the context of the theme of the High-Level Segment	3 p.m. SESSIONAL COMMITTEE I SALLE XXVI	3.00 p.m. SESSIONAL COMMITTEE I SALLE XXVI

Annex II (Part II)

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
SECOND WEEK
(20 - 24 October 1997)

Monday 20/10	Tuesday 21/10	Wednesday 22/10	Thursday 23/10	Friday 24/10
10 a.m. SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II SALLE XXVI Election Vice-Chairman -cum-Rapporteur Item 5 Africa (Opening/Panel)	10 a.m. SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II SALLE XXVI Item 5 Africa in the context of the theme of of the High-Level Segment	10 a.m. SESSIONAL COMMITTEE I SALLE XXVI Item 4 LDCs in the context of the theme of the High-Level Segment	9 a.m. ASSEMBLY HALL HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT (detailed programme will be circulated)	PRESS CONFERENCE
3 p.m. SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II SALLE XXVI Item 5 Africa (Informals)	3 p.m. PLENARY SALLE XX Item 7(a) Land-locked Item 7(g) UNCITRAL 5.00 p.m. BUREAU SALLE XXVI (c) Credentials	3 p.m. SALLE XX SESSIONAL COMMITTEE I Item 4 LDCs (Conclusion) followed by SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II Item 5 Africa (Conclusion) followed by PLENARY 7(c) Credentials 7(d) Prov. agenda Reports of SCI and SCII 8(a) Calendar 8(b) Fin. Imps. 9 Other business 10 Adoption of Report	3.30 p.m. ASSEMBLY HALL HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT (detailed programme will be circulated)	